

No. 35.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the Hon. the COLONIAL TREASURER.

SIR,—

7 Westminster Chambers, London, S.W., 22nd March, 1886.

Hardly had I sent you my telegram of the 18th instant, informing you that a large number of herring ova had been shipped in the "Ruapehu," when a telegram arrived from Madeira stating that the experiment had failed, and that Mr. Jamieson (to whom I referred in my last letter, of the 12th instant, No. 326) had decided to leave the ship and return to this country. I was obliged, therefore, to send you another message on the 19th instant reporting the failure.

I am not yet able to give you any information as to the cause of this disastrous result; but as soon as Mr. Jamieson returns to Professor Ewart full particulars will be sent to you. In the meanwhile, however, the unfortunate failure that has occurred makes it necessary to decide an important point. You will have seen from the tracings which I sent you in my letter of the 12th instant, No. 326, what elaborate appliances had been devised by Professor Cossar Ewart and Mr. Johnson for sending out the ova; and the question immediately arises—of what is to be done with the chamber itself and the rest of these appliances when the "Ruapehu" arrives in New Zealand. I consulted Mr. Johnson on the subject; and now enclose copy of his report, recommending that no part of the fittings excepting the leaden pipes and the steam-connections of the donkey-engine pumps should be removed or interfered with in the colony, but that they should be allowed to come back in the same ship. This, however, is a matter of expense which I am powerless to decide here, and I am obliged therefore to ask you to be pleased to arrange with the New Zealand Shipping Company on the spot whether the chamber and appliances shall be dismantled or whether they shall come back for any repetition of the experiment next season. Mr. Johnson suggests that the chamber could be utilized as a butter-room or for some other purpose, in order to lessen the cost of the space taken up by it; and perhaps the New Zealand Shipping Company may be able to devise some plan of the kind which would recommend itself to you as justifying the expense of paying for the space on the homeward voyage.

I have, &c.,

F. D. BELL.

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer, Wellington.

Enclosure in No. 35.

Mr. T. JOHNSON to the AGENT-GENERAL.

SIR,—

Gun Lane Sawmills, Limehouse, E., 23rd March, 1886.

Having carefully considered the question what should be done with the fittings erected by our firm on board the steamer "Ruapehu" for the transport of herring ova, and consulted Mr. Thompson, Superintending Engineer of the New Zealand Shipping Company, I have come to the conclusion, considering the expense that has been incurred, to recommend that no part of the fittings except the zigzag leaden pipes which are placed in the main cold-air delivery trunk, and the steam-connection of the donkey-engine pumps, should be removed or interfered with. The removal of the above pipes will prevent obstruction in the delivery of the cold air during the homeward voyage of the vessel; and disconnecting the steam-pipes of the donkey-engine pumps will avoid any possible interference with the main engines. If desirable, I would suggest that the chamber containing the apparatus should be used as a butter-room, or for such other purpose as may lessen the cost of the space so taken up.

I have, &c.,

THOMAS JOHNSON.

The Agent-General for New Zealand.

No. 36.

The Hon. the COMMISSIONER of TRADE and CUSTOMS to Professor EWART.

SIR,—

Government Buildings, Wellington, 22nd May, 1886.

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of the Government of New Zealand, their thanks for the great assistance you gave in connection with the late shipment of herring ova. Should it be decided to renew the experiment at any future time, I hope you will be able to again give the aid which Sir F. Dillon Bell writes me he found invaluable.

I have, &c.,

JULIUS VOGEL.

Professor Cossar Ewart, 13, Rothsay Place, Edinburgh.

No. 37.

The Hon. the COMMISSIONER of TRADE and CUSTOMS to the AGENT-GENERAL.

SIR,—

Government Buildings, Wellington, 22nd May, 1886.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 4th, 12th, and 22nd March last on the subject of herring ova, and the transportation of ova to New Zealand.

Salmon Ova.—I have read with much interest your proposal with reference to sending our salmon ova in a chamber in which the temperature should not be allowed to fall below 25° Faht.